

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061624

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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----- 116908

R 272253Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IN

SUBJECT: OIL DRILLNG RIG PURCHASE MISSION

REF: NEW DELHI 3113

1. INDIAN EMBASSY ECON MIN RAMAKRISHNA GAVE DEPTOFF MARCH 26 FOLLOWING RUNDOWN OF RESULTS SUBJECT PURCHASE MISSION.
2. GROUP SPENT WEEK IN TEXAS TALKING TO HALF-DOZEN US MANUFACTUERES OF DRILLING RIGS IN EFFORT BUY RIGS OUTRIGHT AND ARRANGE FOR COLLABORATION BY US FIRM TO MANUFACTURE/ ASSEMBLE RIGS IN INDIA.
3. NO US FIRM COULD DELIVER RIGS BEFORE SECOND QUARTER OF 1976 (YES 1976) AND GOI PURCHASE MISSION PLACED NO ORDERS. HOWEVER, TWO FIRMS ARMCO NATIONAL AND OIL WELL DALLAS, EXPRESSED INTEREST IN COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENT. ARMCO IS SENDING REP TO INDIA IN APRIL,

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PAGE 02 STATE 061624

WHILE OIL WELL HAS AGREED CONSIDER COLLABORATION POSSIBILITY

AND TO PROVIDE EARLY DECISION WITH QUOTATIONS ON ROYALTIES,
FEES AND OTHER CHARGES.

4. ON RELATED QUESTION OF OFFSHORE EXPLORATION/EXPLOITA-
TION OF BOMBAY HIGH, GOI HAS HIRED AMERICAN EXPERT AS
CONSULTING ENGINEER NOW TO ADVISE ON PLACEMENT PUMPING
WELLS ON ASSUMPTION OIL WILL BE FOUND. THIS COULD SAVE

UP TO TWELVE MONTHS IN EXPLOITING ANY OIL FOUND AND,
ACCORDING TO RAMAKRISHNA, REFLECTS GOI OPTIMISM OVER
OUTLOOK. RUSH

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